



1666

Burden of Gastric cancer in Ardabil province, a high incidence area of Gastric cancer in Iran.

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#### Introduction:

Malignant tumors represent one of the major health problems today; their occurrence and severity are constantly increasing. Gastric cancer alone constitutes one third of all cancers in Ardabil, the ASR of which is the highest reported from Iran up to now and one of the highest in the world. In briefly, here in this research for the first time in Iran we want to have a discussion by estimating the burden of gastric cancer in Ardabil. Purpose of this study was to provide a baseline for assessing improvements in health and performance and provide objective criteria for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the cancer control program.

#### Aims & Methods:

Data on all newly diagnosed cancer cases, permanent residents of Ardabil province, in the years between 2004 and 2006 were actively collected. The data of cancer death were obtained from the comprehensive death registry system of Ardabil province and had been compared with cancer registry data to reduce misclassification of cancer related death causes. We used Dutch disability weight for end stage Gastric cancer (0.93) to estimate years lost due to disability (YLD) for our cases.

#### Results:

The mean age of the patients was 66.7 years old for both sexes. The Age adjusted incidence rate of gastric cancer was estimated to be 51.8 (95 %CI: 47.8-55.8) in male and 24.37(95%CI: 21.5-27.2) in female. The mortality rate of gastric cancer was 18 per 100,000 (24.48 in male and 11.3 in female). The YLL was 7,108 for male (3.7 per1000) and for female 4,141 (2.3 per1000). The undiscounted DALY for gastric cancer was 86.2 per 1000 (male 125.6 and female 45.3).

#### Conclusion:

Gastric cancer has a high burden in Ardabil. Because of incomplete death registration data in Ardabil it is supposed that the actual DALY should be higher. To obtain a good estimate on burden of diseases in Ardabil, standard demographic techniques may be useful to adjust for underreporting of deaths.

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